

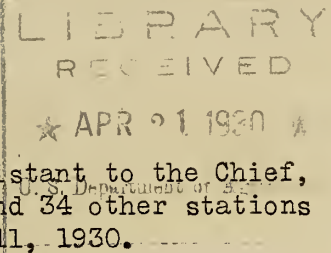
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THE HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR



A radio talk by Mrs. Rowena Schmidt Carpenter, Assistant to the Chief, Bureau of Home Economics, delivered through Station WRC and 34 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, April 11, 1930.

Spring weather such as we are having in Washington just now made a friend of mine on a farm out west say several years ago: "Days like this make me want to get at plowing." We who are homemakers feel the influence of spring on our jobs too. Warm sunshiny days make us anxious to freshen up our homes and our wardrobes - to clean and to renovate, making the things about us seem fresh and new, in keeping with the out-of-doors. And incidentally we are eager to put winter things out of sight.

Preparing winter clothing, bedding and rugs for summer storage is a very important spring task. All of these things must be put away clean and under moth-proof conditions. To store dresses and coats that are even slightly soiled from winter wear is bad, but if those garments contain perspiration and other stains it is much worse to postpone their cleaning until fall. Perspiration is acid and may cause material to weaken; aside from that, the longer any stain is left in cloth, the more the stain sets, and the harder it is to remove. A thorough all-over cleaning is essential for any garment that has had a good deal of wear, but even a rather new or recently cleaned piece of clothing should be inspected for spots. The removal of a stain or two may be the only attention necessary.

The Bureau of Home Economics has a bulletin on Stain Removal from Fabrics, which is a handy reference the year around, but is especially valuable at the time of spring cleaning. It has directions for removing stains of ink, grease, mildew, paint, and all of the other kinds of spots often gotten on garments and household textiles. This bulletin on stain removal is one of our "best sellers" so popular that the supply of free copies is exhausted frequently. If you happen to write for the stain removal bulletin when it isn't available free, we will save your request until a reprint comes out.

The Bureau has other bulletins too that are particularly useful at this season. The directions for washing woolen blankets and sweaters found in Farmers' Bulletin 1497 Home Laundering are timely just now. Woolen things need careful washing to prevent their shrinking and to keep them soft. Rubbing is hard on moist wool; strong soaps and washing powders and heat have a bad effect also. Shrinking and harshness caused by hot water are increased if strong alkalis are used to dissolve the dirt. The importance of using lukewarm suds not hotter than 110° F., of very thorough rinsing, and other precautions to take in washing woollens are outlined in the laundering bulletin. The method of washing feather pillows and suggestions for laundering lace curtains are found in the same publications.

If you have a suitable place to give special attention to your rugs, you will be interested in our bulletin on Floors and Floor Coverings (F. B. 1219) Directions for removing spots, scrubbing, and even resizing rugs are found in that bulletin. The care of floors, too, is a seasonal task.

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Perhaps you are planning to refinish some of your floors this spring and want to know how to remove the varnish or other finish before treating them again.

Let me introduce you to one more Bureau Bulletin before I stop. Its title should endear it to every woman's heart: HOUSECLEANING MADE EASIER, otherwise known as F. B. 1180. There is never a day that you do not use some of the methods described in this bulletin, but if this spring you are solving cleaning problems that are new to you, F. B. 1180 may give you the answer. From general directions for the frequent cleaning of rooms down to such special tasks as the polishing of brass and the cleaning of windows you will find Housecleaning Made Easier a useful reference.

If you want any of the four bulletins I have mentioned today: Stain Removal, Home Laundering, Floors and Floor Coverings, of Housecleaning Made Easier, write to the Bureau of Home Economics in Washington.

And now I bid you goodbye, Homemakers, until next Friday when Miss Clarice Scott will talk to you about shopping for the children's spring togs.